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April 3, 2009

The Honorable John Olver  
Subcommittee on Transportation and  
Housing and Urban Development  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States House of Representatives  
2358A Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Tom Latham  
Subcommittee on Transportation and  
Housing and Urban Development  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States House of Representatives  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Olver and Ranking Member Latham:

As you begin drafting the FY2010 Transportation and Housing and Urban Development Appropriations bill, I respectfully request your support for the following projects in or near the 7<sup>th</sup> district of Texas. I have ranked these requests in priority order and attempted to limit the amount of each request to reflect the project's need and to simplify your difficult task.

To simplify your task and to help control federal spending, I apply a rigorous filter to every spending request I receive. I tell everyone who asks me for federal funding that the starting answer is "no" and that "yes" is very hard to earn. I will not even consider a request from a private individual or a private company because I think it will unavoidably lead to problems. Then it must be an absolutely essential project of great public benefit that falls within the confines of the U. S. Constitution's grant of authority to Congress, and it must be in dire need of federal funding to assure the continuation of the work in question. Even if these conditions are met, I still filter out quite a few projects because of the dangerously large federal deficit and the unsustainable national debt. After all these filters are applied, I then try to limit the projects I consider to medical or scientific research at the Texas Medical Center or NASA, critical flood control or transportation projects, or defending our borders and our national security.

1. **Houston Galveston Area Council:** \$1,000,000 in the Department of Transportation, Federal Transit Administration, Alternatives Analysis account for a transportation study of the area surrounding the Texas Medical Center that will include multiple modes of transportation.

In 2008, the Houston Galveston Area Council conducted a regional transportation study to develop a blueprint to address the region's long-term transportation needs. The results of the study indicate that significant transportation improvements will be needed in several parts of the city, including the Texas Medical Center due to the unprecedented growth that is anticipated.

Demands for cost-effective and environmentally-friendly mobility solutions are increasing. Alternative mobility solutions will include capitalizing on current transportation infrastructure by emphasizing multimodal mobility solutions and system improvements with a high benefit-cost ratio.

The Houston Galveston Area Council will use this funding to identify targeted mobility improvements for developing an efficient and functional multimodal transportation system in the Texas Medical Center. This planning is essential to keep Houston and the Texas Medical Center moving forward.

2. **Houston METRO:** \$1,000,000 in the Department of Transportation, Federal Transit Administration, Bus and bus facilities account for the Advanced Transit Program/METRO Solutions Bus Expansion for the purchase of hybrid buses to replace the aging fleet and to continue expansion of the Park & Ride system.

Houston METRO maintains one of the best public bus system in the country. According to Federal guidelines, buses should be replaced every 12 years. This request will provide funding to continue expansion of the Park & Ride system throughout the Houston area and be used to purchase replacement buses for the METRO fleet. METRO has about 1200 buses and has developed an annual replacement schedule that replaces 100 buses per year.

3. **Houston METRO:** \$5,000,000 in the Department of Transportation, Federal Transit Administration, New starts/fixed guideway account for the Advanced Transit Program/METRO Solutions Phase 2 for light rail projects along the North and Southeast corridors only and to study commuter rail lines along the US 90A, US 290 and Westpark corridors.

In 2003, the voters of Houston approved the METRO Solutions plan that includes buses, light rail, and commuter rail. This request is specifically to fund the final design, land acquisition, and construction for the first segments on only the North Corridor and Southeast Corridor Projects. Additionally, this funding will also help begin the planning work for commuter rail segments.

Should your office need any additional information, please contact Jeff Morehouse at 5-2571.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of my requests.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Culberson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" written in a more compact, looped style and the last name "Culberson" written in a more extended, flowing style.

John Culberson  
Member of Congress